



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
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News Release

SBOH 02-09

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State Board of Health Meets Jointly with King County Board

Tuesday, December 10, Hilton Seattle Airport, 17620 Pacific Hwy South, SeaTac, WA 98188

Joint Meeting, 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.; State Board of Health only, 1:30–4:30 p.m.

The Washington State Board of Health will meet in joint session with the King County Board of Health in SeaTac on the morning of Tuesday December 10. The two boards will jointly discuss the public health implications of human genomics, as well as the appropriate role of government in encouraging healthy behaviors, particularly with regard to diet, exercise, and physical activity in children. The boards will also received a demonstration by the SCATS Seattle Public Schools Demonstration Team, a successful school acrobatics program.

When the State Board of Health reconvenes by itself in the afternoon, it will hold its second public hearing on a proposed rule governing isolation and quarantine during a bioterrorism attack or other health emergency. The isolation and quarantine rule would help guarantee due process and protect civil liberties whenever a local health officer exercises his or her existing emergency powers. The rule would also clarify that law enforcement must enforce, and the public must obey, isolation and quarantine orders.

The Board will also hold a public hearing and a proposal to revise the rule that establishes standards for screening and diagnostic procedures for prenatal diagnosis of congenital disorders of the fetus. The proposed revision would update the rules, delete obsolete rules, update the scope of prenatal genetics testing required for health insurance packages, and adds three new tests: maternal hepatitis B, group B strep, and fluorescent in-situ hybridization (FISH).

Copies of the agenda and related materials are available by contacting the Board of Health at (360) 236-4110 or by visiting the Board's Web site at www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/.

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The State Board of Health serves the citizens of Washington by working to understand and prevent disease across the entire population. Established in 1889 by the State Constitution, the Board provides leadership by suggesting public health policies and actions, by regulating certain activities, and by providing a public forum. The governor appoints ten members who fill three-year terms. Visit the board's Web site at www.doh.wa.gov/sboh.